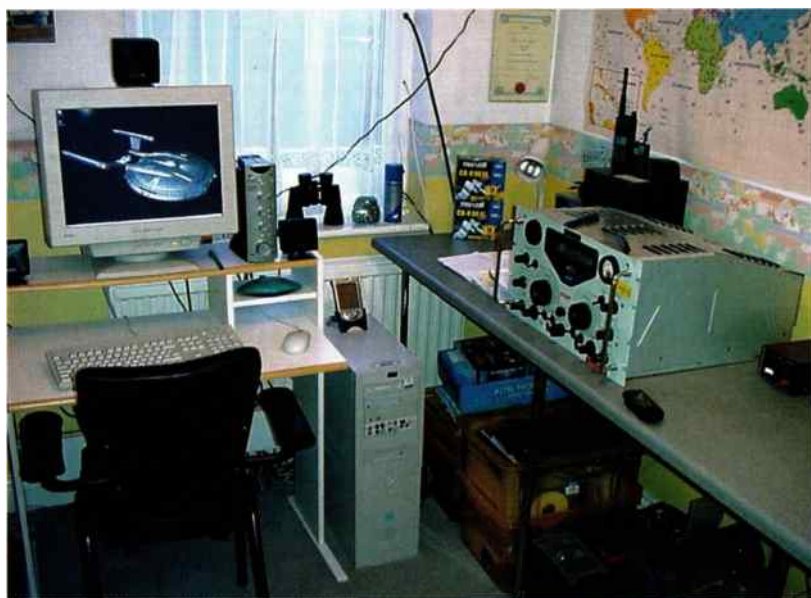# The Other Man's Shack

Dartford in Kent is the location of this month's Ex Radio Caroline DJ *SWM* Reader and ocassional contributor, Hugh Neal. Kevin Nice tells us more.

For some reason Hugh is unnecessarily defensive about his comprehesive listening set-up saying, "As you will no doubt note from the original digital photographs, my shack is very much a 'work in progress' - I hope to make substantial improvments when time and funds allow!"

Well it looks good to me Hugh, I know people who'd give their right arm for such a shack.

Everything is based on a reinforced 3m long workbench that is actually a kitchen worktop with industrial wall fittings and extra strong legs. There is a gap at the back at the rear by the wall, allowing cable access to the 24 mains sockets with inbuilt surge protection and an uninterruptable power supply - mainly for Hugh's computer gear.

As an ex Radio Caroline DJ, Hugh's main area of interest is h.f. broadcast band pirates.

- Ten - Tec DSP 350 h.f. Receiver is a likely purchase, subject to John Wilson's review!
- Antenna - 30m random wire suspended at 8m . This is fed via a magnetic balun into a Global AT-2000 a.t.u.

VHF & UHF Gear

- AOR AR8000 hand-held scanner
- Alinco DJ5E 2m/70cm hand-held transceiver with extended receive
- Icom IC 251E 2m base station all mode
  - 100 watt Microset SR100 linear amplifier
  - FDK Multi 700E 2m 25W f.m. transceiver The v.h.f./u.h.f. antenna is a dual 2m/70cm Colinear mounted on a 3m aluminium pole on the chimney.

Receivers - HF

- JRC NRD-345
- Racal RA17 mintfrom 1968
- Sony ICF2001D

Located on the banks of the River Thames near Dartford, Kent, Hugh says he needs as much height as possible. To this end he has plans for a 12m Versatower for which planning permission is pending. The shack audio is handled by the benchmark Cambridge Soundworks DTS 3500 Dolby Digital, EAX surround sound processor/amplifier into a 5.1 audio speaker surround sound system with full remote control - 80W r.m.s. per channel.

On the computing front, Hugh has harnessed the serious power of a 1.2GHz Athlon processor with 512Mb 133MHz SDRAM. Storage is via 80GB 7200 r.p.m. IBM Hard Disk, Plextor 12x write, 8x rewrite, 42x read CD-RW and a Sanyo DVD ROM drive. On the visual interface side of things, a NVidia GE Force 2 64 Meg 3D Graphics card paints the pictures and a SoundBlaster Live! Platinum sound card with frontal break out box handles the audio. Back-up media is by way of an Iomega 250Mb Zip drive and the final element of this impressive syetem is an Iiyama Vision Master Pro 450 19" flat screen monitor.

All this lot runs under a dual boot Windows XP Professional and Red Hat Linux 7.2 Operating systems.

For computing on the move, Hugh utilises a Compaq iPaq pocket PC which can be docked with the main PC. *SWM*

If you'd like to share your shack with fellow *SWM* readers - you too Eric... then send details and pictures to; **The Other Man's Shack, *Short Wave Magazine*, Station Approach, Arrowsmith Court, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8PW.**